

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-7 are amended and claim 8 is canceled. No new matter is added.

The specification has also been amended to add heading as suggested in the Office Action.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and claim 3 has been amended responsive to the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,807,336 to Yoshimura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 now calls for mechanical means for locally modifying the separation of the two rails and their angle convergence, so as to adjust the longitudinal and transverse draw ratios during production. Yoshimura fails to teach the claimed means because it does not teach means for locally modifying the angle of convergence of the rails. Rather, it teaches means for adjusting the gauge between the rails and means for adjusting the longitudinal stress ratio of the sheet material. (Col. 7, lines 9-19; and col. 8, lines 21-26). Also, Yoshimura fails to teach that the longitudinal and transverse draw ratios can be modified during production. Rather, the term "continuously" as it appears in col. 8, lines 25 and 26 of the reference only refers to the adjustment that is made by adjusting the screw with a gate adjuster 102 (col. 8, line 28; Fig. 3).

For at least the above reason, the Yoshimura reference cannot be reasonably considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all the features positively recited in independent claim 1. Further, claims 2 and 6-8 are also neither taught, nor would

they have been suggested, by the applied prior art reference for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6-8 are respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of FR2686041. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, the Yoshimura reference fails to include all the features of independent claim 1. FR2686041 reference also fails to teach or suggest the feature. For at least this reason, any permissible combination of Yoshimura and FR2686041 cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all the features positively recited in the independent claim 1. Further, claims 3-5 also would not have been suggested by these combinations of applied prior art references, for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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